Silent contemplation and reflection as to the *present relationship* with this Omnipresent Spirit, coupled with a realization of His capacity to help each one, will yield a comprehensive basis for the individual exercises in order to more fully comprehend, accept, and make potent in each one's own experience the dissoluble connection with the Great First Cause. The actual analyzing of the outer mind's concept of the God Presence within the various vehicles, faculties, and everyday affairs, will enable the individual, through prayer, meditation and earnest solicitation, to draw closer to the understanding and realization of this *individualized Presence* alive and active through all avenues of expression.

The acceptance of the Divine "I AM" Presence as the basis of the *mental* truths which form the foundation of one's beliefs must eventually be superceded by a *realization* of this Presence within the *feeling nature* as well. The word realize means "to make real"—to draw substance from the abstract into the concrete or outer world of form. Individuals *realize* profit on investments; and in the larger sense, realization means the sudden *illumination of consciousness* which allows the personal ego to accept, through *all* its instruments, this powerful, potent, and Divine Force.

The Presence of God *was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,* but the evolving mankind do not enjoy the fullness of that Presence, and will not until they come into a realization of Its Omniscience and Omnipresence. It was this *realization* that dawned upon and became the predominant factor in the life of the Master Jesus whereby He accomplished all His victorious manifestations; by which He made *REAL* the abstract principles which both the masses and the elite have affirmed for centuries, but have not *realized.*

It was the realization, or the *making real* of His contemplations, by which the Gautama Buddha came to an understanding of the Universal Cosmic Truth that transmuted His being into a full expression of God-Accomplishment. This is also the reason that man, through ignorance, carelessness, or indifference, very often proceeds through life performing injustices of judgment as well as action because he has *not realized the true state of his being* or of his actual spiritual relationship with similarly evolving egos.

When *realization* comes, an entirely different method of handling situations in connection with individuals ensues, and when the *Cosmic Realization* with regard to the Divine Ego enters the soul, redemption is at hand, and mankind will find themselves walking in a charmed world when they become endowed, through consistent contemplation and meditation, with the capacity to *make real* the Omniscient Power of the "I AM," or the Presence of God which ever *IS.*

HOPE

HEALTH OPULENCE PEACE ENLIGHTENMENT

Volume 5 June-July, 1959 Number 2

A PRAYER

O Light that shines from Heaven's shore
Into this heart of mine;
Now through me Thy sweet radiance pour,
And make my soul divine.
Teach me to know that Thou art Love—
The one and only power
That lifts mankind to realms above
In life's despairing hour.
Blaze through my inner consciousness
Thy all-transmuting Fire;
That I may live in righteousness,
And have but one desire—
To live to love my fellowman,
And Thy example be;
That through me all shall understand
Thy Law that sets life free.

Also in this issue: True Wisdom through Illumination; The Divine Mind; The Holy Bible—Its teachings and symbols—Part 2; Mother Nature and Her Assistants; A Message from the Holy Spirit; Code of Conduct for a Disciple of the Holy Spirit; Self-Realization.

A BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE EXPANSION OF SPIRITUAL ETHICS AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL PEOPLES

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TRUE WISDOM THROUGH ILLUMINATION

The Wisdom of God manifests through the minds of mankind when they have become "as little children" and allowed themselves to receive that illumination which opens their minds to the promptings and directions of the Heavenly Father from Whom *ALL* constructive thinking flows.

The minds of men may be likened unto a cup which is either raised to the Source of All Good—God; or to the acceptance of the partial Truths that have already been developed and used upon the Earth for centuries of time and which form a part of the many fallacies which are reported to mankind through the senses.

Many individuals follow the accepted method of allowing others to do their thinking for them, and then accept those thoughts as their own pattern of living. Thus, you will find, in every age, the "few" who refuse to accept as Truth any *new* ideas, thoughts, concepts or patterns of living for themselves; preferring rather the *accepted* doctrines, secular as well as spiritual, already developed and externalized by the *thinking* men and women who are either their contemporaries or who have lived on Earth previous to their own embodiment. These latter groups are the pioneers who open new vistas in the fields of governmental affairs, educational instruction, humanitarianism, architectural design, scientific research, ministration to their fellowmen, and also the ways and means of promoting spiritual activities which will be of the greatest benefaction to the human race.

Almost without exception, such men and women are subject to ridicule because of the fact that they refuse to accept the established doctrines, credos and activities in which mankind believes. Often it is only after these blessed ones have passed from the Earth, and the human race both realizes and enjoys the results of their research, that their gifts and blessings are accepted and the benefactors honored.

Mankind must learn to differentiate between Wisdom and intellectual accretion which is merely a digesting of the pre-conceived ideas of others and which often tend to "clog" the mind and form a barrier to the God-inspiration which comes either from their own Source of Life or to them through their associates. Such accretion

can create what is termed "a closed mind." Through free will, which is God's Gift to man, be he great or small, each one is allowed to either accept and live in the half-truths or fallacies presented to him through various media of expression, or he may investigate Truth in his own way as presented by the many channels of the present era endeavoring to bring a new Illumination to the minds of mankind. The "few" who do make the great decision to seek out Truth for Truth's sake are those with what is called "an open mind," and it is these people that represent the salvation of the human race because, through the Illumination of their minds, truly does the Wisdom of God flow forth to bless all life.

Man was endowed by God with the creative power of thought. Thus, primal life can, has been, and always will be moulded into actual form, just as the architect, after the preparation of his plans, moulds, with the assistance of the necessary contractors and workmen, a home, a school, or a temple.

The thought-power of man can be a God-inspiration, and the actual manifestation of a constructive blessing here on Earth is the result. The thought-power of man can also be greatly influenced by forces of a destructive nature. The result, of course, is more chaos and confusion in a world already filled with distress of every kind and description.

In order to receive the constructive Ideas from the Godhead, each individual must first learn to sweep all imperfect mental concepts from his mind, and then, in humility, ask the Heavenly Father to manifest *His* ideas through the outer consciousness.

There are many earnest and sincere children of God who receive these Divine Ideas, but who do not always have the courage, perseverance, tenacity or constancy to develop them into manifest form. These Divine Ideas then live on in the Higher Realms until another individual can accept and use them for the benefaction of himself and the entire evolutions of the Earth. It is not enough to receive a Divine Idea or Vision. It is the decree of the Father of all Good that these Ideas, which are His own Life, be magnetized and manifested on Earth to create, as the Beloved Master Jesus said in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven!"

Why is it that these Divine Ideas continue to LIVE, even after the individual who drew them forth has passed from the Earth life? Because they are *God-inspired,* and the individual who received and developed them is still interested in using the qualified energy of life to sustain them in the Sphere in which the soul dwells between embodiments.

Such individuals then direct the beam of *their* inspiration into embodied men and women, or, as is often the case, they themselves come into a new embodiment to perfect the God-inspired Ideas in a new generation. Conversely, fallacies can have the same continuity of expression, as the individual who instigated them also uses his life energy to sustain such destructive activities and direct them through embodied individuals who are negative or who have an affinity for such activities in the present era, having usually participated in the initial advent of them in previous ages. It is in this manner that many nefarious activities appear again and again on the Earth and are accepted by many people as Truth.

God-Wisdom *always* brings *impersonal* blessings to the human race; and is always expressed by individuals who are thus God-inspired in great humility and selflessness. The ever-lasting example of this Wisdom, practically manifested for the blessing of the "just and the unjust alike," is found in the teachings of the Beloved Master Jesus who always refused personal acclaim for any of His so-called miracles.

> "I speak not of Myself, but the Father that dwelleth in me; He doeth the works!" (John 14:10)

The Beloved Jesus often intimated that it was not the part of wisdom to give the full details of the inner teachings of the Godhead to the multitude as they could neither understand nor utilize the deeper Truths *at that time.*

Jesus even went so far as to tell the disciples that He could not give the full import of the Law to the people, due to the fact that they would not understand the full meaning. For this reason, He gave forth His teaching in many parables.

> "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of God, but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables!" (Mark 4:11)

Saint Paul also referred to this when He said:

> "The natural (material) man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them for they are spiritually discerned!" (I Cor. 2:14)

In the Heavenly Kingdom, there are many Beings who serve with the Beloved Master Jesus in bringing God-Illumination to mankind—particularly in this present generation. These are known as the Brothers and Sisters of the Golden Robe, and are all Masters of Wisdom who are willing and able to assist any discerning individual to walk in Wisdom's Way. All the "Spiritual Elect' who have taught upon the Earth through the ages belong to this Order of Divine Wisdom, including the Master Jesus, the Gautama Buddha, and many Others.

If you are desirous of knowing how to "tune in" to the Eternal Verities, and to free yourself from the fallacies of the past and present as well, you are invited to call upon these Divine Beings who will, at all times, and under all circumstances, direct Their Light into your consciousness, Their Love into your heart, and Their Wisdom into your activities, secular or spiritual. "Ask and ye shall receive!" Now is a time of great import to the human race. The Illumination of mankind to God's Wisdom *must* come forth, and all fallacies *must* be dissolved from every line of constructive endeavor. You are invited to participate in this mass awakening of mankind to the Truth which will truly set *all* life free. Accept this invitation; free your mind of many of the previously accepted credos; and allow God Wisdom and Illumination to flow into your world to bless you and your fellowman. In so doing, the cup of your consciousness will be opened to the Waters of Eternal Life (God Wisdom through God Illumination).

* * * * *

THE THREE MONKEYS

Sitting on the mantelpiece
Beside the clock that chimes,
I have a little ornament
(You've seen one many times)—
Three monkeys sitting in a row,
In poses quaint and queer;
But if you'll only study them,
The meaning's very clear.

One holds his hands across his mouth;
Another o'er his ears.
The other covers up his eyes
As if to stop the tears.
Of course it isn't really that,
But still you couldn't blame
A monkey if he shed a tear
For nothing more than shame.

"They're almost human creatures these,"
You hear the people say.
They're almost human! If you please!
Perhaps they do not pray
Upon their knees as humans do;
At least they are sincere,
And let no evil pass their lips,
Or evil see or hear.

So in this little ornament
Of odd, but striking pose,
We'll find a deep philosophy
In what these monkeys chose
To help portray before us all,
That we must brothers be,
And never speak an evil word,
Or evil hear or see.

THE DIVINE MIND

by Charity Masters

What is Consciousness? How many have ever given the subject any amount of consideration? Consciousness is what constitutes each one's world, and that which we are conscious of becomes a living part of our experience. In other words, our Consciousness is what we THINK and FEEL. Our worlds consist of what we *think* about things and how we *feel* about them. Then we speak and act in accordance with that of which we have become conscious.

When we first came forth from the Heart of God, each individual was endowed, like unto their Parents, with a Divine Mind or Consciousness—that is the state of being conscious only of Perfection and its many avenues of expression. However, also being endowed with the gift of Free Will as to how we should use our thoughts and feelings, we experimented with them in various ways; and thus the consciousness of the Perfection of the Kingdom of Heaven receded and the *human* consciousness was born. This is the faculty of thinking and feeling and being conscious of the discordant chaotic conditions which appear in the outer world and accepting them as Truth, thus drawing them into our own worlds of experience. This must all be reversed in order to again manifest that which is known as the Divine Mind or Consciousness.

Each one is a God Being in embryo, endowed with all the God Qualities of the Divine Parents. When, in the authority of life and our own free will, we decide that we have had enough of imperfection in our worlds and take the time to magnetize the lovely, beautiful, constructive things we desire, then as the attention is centered upon them, we will find that they will gradually come into our own experience. Then we shall realize that God's intent for each one of His children here on the Earth is for them to have that limitless supply of whatever is required to make and keep them happy and desirous of helping to expand His Beauty and Perfection which is the Divine Plan and Pattern for us all.

The distress which is manifesting upon the Earth today has been brought about by mankind *forgetting* the Divine Blueprint and holding the attention (or mind) upon the imperfections appearing around one another and the very Earth itself.

When the mind observes and accepts the various forms of accidents, sickness, war, pain, and limitation, as Truth, then this becomes part of the consciousness which abides in the world of the observer.

If one were making a garment and using a pattern to cut it out, and the pattern slipped or was placed incorrectly, the result would

not be the beautiful garment anticipated, but something quite different, and nothing like the original pattern at all. Only as the pattern is held steady, and the cutting done very carefully, does the garment emerge beautiful and lovely. So it is with life—every individual's life—and the very Earth itself. For ages mankind has been cutting out "garments" without even using a pattern. One must be an "expert" to do this successfully.

The individual endeavoring to regain the Divine Mind or Consciousness must train himself to shut out, as much as possible, the things and ideas he does *not* want in his experience, and to replace them with the things he *does* want. This must be practiced over and over again with great patience, but the results are well worth the effort.

Now let us decide on some beautiful thing which we would like to see manifest for us. As we HOLD THAT THOUGHT PATTERN within the mind, we cut out of the Universal Light Substance the exact thing that we desire. Now, if this is followed by a deep feeling of gratitude and love in anticipation of the outpicturing of the desire, it will hasten its manifestation into our hands and use. Now let us go a step further and use the statement of the Beloved Ascended Master Jesus to assist in drawing forth this Perfection into the physical octave:

> "I AM" the Resurrection and the Life of this great Perfection now manifest in my hands and use through the power of Love in its most perfect way!"

The Divine Mind is that which is conscious of the Divine Qualities as being real and true. This Divine Mind receives the God Ideas direct from the Godhead. The human mind is that accumulation of information which has been drawn into the consciousness through the senses which have reported the conditions of the outer world as they appear to be. When the attention is directed to these distorted reports, they are drawn back into the brain substance and this conglomerate mass becomes the human mind.

There is a Divine Pattern for every man, woman, and child on this planet, and even for the planet itself. That Divine Pattern has been held for countless ages in the consciousness of God Beings of great Love and Compassion who patiently wait for individuals to manifest a desire to know the Divine Way and to assist in bringing it into their own worlds and into the substance of the Earth itself. If we will become as STILL as possible, and turn our attention toward the Godhead, He will assist us in determining the exact nature of the Divine Plan of our lives. Once this has been realized, and since the accumulation of discord around us is very great, we may call upon the Ascended Master Jesus, the Christ, to assist us in clearing

away the old concepts and attachments, and thus take the first step toward the outpouring of the Divine Plan for each one individually. As we are now at a very critical point in the history of the Earth, many ways and means are being provided by which the purifying and cleansing of the mind and feelings may be accomplished. To those who are interested in so doing, we dedicate the pages of this magazine, and offer very humbly and sincerely whatever assistance may be required.

Through free will, we may turn our attention toward God (Who is the only Source of Perfection) and His Divine Plan, or we may "tune in" to the results of mankind's experimentation with life energy (without a blue-print). Whichever our choice may be, that we will have in our world! From God we shall receive love, peace, health, beauty, opulence, and perfection of every kind. By experimenting with every passing thought and feeling reported to us from radio, newspapers, and other sources, we draw into our consciousness that which is the discord of the outer world. Our free will choice must decide which it must be. Being immersed in the seas of discord as we are on this planet, it is not easy to rise above this substance of distress and imperfection, but IT CAN BE DONE—IT MUST BE DONE by those who aspire to become Master of circumstances. The door of the individual consciousness must be guarded against accepting limitation in any way whatsoever, and the beam of the attention must be held upon the God Qualities and understanding. Only in this way can the Divine Mind be achieved.

Beloved Heavenly Father, I LOVE YOU! Of my own free will, I now desire to know and use the Truth of which Your Beloved Son, Jesus, spoke, to set myself, my loved ones, and all on this planet free from discord of every kind and description. I humbly invite the Brothers and Sisters of the Golden Robe to assist me in preparing my consciousness to accept *only* Your Ideas, and to *instantly* cognize fallacies of any kind presented to me by others. Now illumine my mind as to how I may prepare myself to be a Light upon the Pathway toward Your Throne for the blessing of myself and others. For the privilege of this opportunity to render such service, "I AM" so grateful! AMEN

IN SINCERE APPRECIATION

The management of HOPE wishes to take this opportunity of expressing its sincere gratitude to those readers who have so kindly written us in connection with our endeavors to place before the people the finest material available to ensure the enlightenment of all on the Pathway of Light and Truth. We are always pleased to hear from those who wish to write.

THE HOLY BIBLE — ITS TEACHINGS AND SYMBOLS

by Chas. C. Smith, F.R.C.

Part 2—*The Path of Spiritual Development*

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Ps. 119:105)
"But the path of the just is as a shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." (Pr. 4:18)

In our previous study, we pointed out the secret nature of the teachings of Jesus and promised to show you the reason for this secrecy. In the December, 1958 issue of this magazine, in the article entitled "The Christmas Story," we stated that it was impossible to understand the Christian Gospel without a knowledge of the doctrine of Reincarnation. For the benefit of new readers, the following is the essence of that article.

A better understanding of the New Testament can be made possible if one has a knowledge of Reincarnation and Universal Salvation because these two doctrines are the central themes of Christianity.

Reincarnation teaches us that the soul inhabits a material body for a limited period of time and then discards it when it wears out through age or becomes useless due to disease or accident. Since soul and character development are closely related, the process is quite slow and cannot be completed in one life span. Between embodiments, the soul rests in a state which is referred to in the Bible as Paradise. (Luke 23:43) Here the conscious soul rests in its etheric body and receives instruction from Those who have completed Their development and have become Divine Beings. (II Peter 1:4) In time, the opportunity is provided for the soul to return to Earth in another body and try again to emulate the Christ, and this process will continue until all receive the complete Resurrection in the spiritual Body. (I Cor. 15:50) It is in this manner that each one lives in the effects of various causes set up in previous lives, whether they be good or bad. This is the Law of Karma or the Law of the Circle, and Jesus referred to this when he said: "As a man soweth, that shall he also reap." It is quite evident that in many cases it would be almost impossible for one to reap all the results of his "sowing" in that same life.

In the Book of Matthew 16:13 and 17:10, we find two references to the fact that the people considered that Jesus was a reincarnation of Elijah, due to the fact that He was a great teacher, but Jesus told them that Elijah had already come, and by this they realized

that John the Baptist, had been that reincarnation. It is, therefore, a foregone conclusion that reincarnation was accepted as fact by the Jews of that day, and particularly by the Essene Brotherhood of which Jesus was a member. So if this doctrine was an integral part of religion at that time, and was recognized as such by Jesus Himself, it would appear that it is also very much a part of the Christian religion of today. The reason for its submersion in the Christian teachings is purely a matter of dogmatic evasion of the question by the various sects involved.

In our last study, we also learned of the many misrepresentations of the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles that have been made during the years that have passed since that time. Now we shall endeavor to show you why these things happened, and also try to indicate a more appropriate method of approaching the Godhead.

The Three Religions

It may be advisable, at this point, to give a brief review of the religious conditions existing in Palestine at the time of Jesus and the Apostles. Historians tell us that there were three religious sects in the country, these being the Sadducees, the Pharisees, and the Essenes —although the latter group was not really a religious sect.

The Sadducees were a materialistic group who did not believe in the resurrection; nor did they believe in Angels or Spiritual Beings. Among them were some very wealthy people and a number of the high priests; and while we may have some of this same type with us now, their numbers are small and their religious influence is limited.

However, the Pharisees were different. They were *very* religious and were very anxious to show their convictions at all times. They attended synagogue services every sabbath, and gave one tenth of all their income to the church—even to the giving of one tenth of the seasoning herbs which they raised in their gardens. They wore distinctive clothing, and delighted in stopping on street corners where they would offer up long prayers. They claimed to be the "seed of Abraham," and, of course, that automatically made them especially loved of God. They were the *chosen* people. The only way that the Gentiles could be saved was to accept *their* religion, for which purpose they sent out missionaries. It seems that Jesus was very much interested in their missions, because in a talk to the Pharisees as recorded in Matthew 23:15, He has this to say: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass the sea and the land to make one proselyte (convert), and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." But times change—or do they?

It should be very evident that Jesus and the Apostles were neither Sadducees nor Pharisees, but Essenes; and it is in the records of these people that we will find the keys to the secrets of the Kingdom.

The Essene Brotherhood

The recent discovery of the "Dead Sea Scrolls" has focused world attention on this obscure group of people; but they are not as obscure and unknown as is commonly thought, and were a *type* of people rather than a racial group. Among themselves, they generally spoke of their association merely as "the Brotherhood." Such names as the Essenes were local names given to them by the people with whom they associated. Other names that have been given to them include Nazarites, Therapeutics, Sufi, Lords of the Flame, Brethren in White, Illuminati, Brethren of the Rose and the Cross, and many others in different countries and at different times. Saint Paul called them "the children of the light," and from this group came Jesus and the Apostles, the three wise men, John the Baptist, Moses, the prophets, the Patriarchs, and many great religious leaders throughout the world. When one has been initiated into "the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations" (Col. 1:26), he learns to detect the foot prints of this type in the sands of time, and finds that they have lived in *all* ages, and in *all* religions, and have come from *all* races.

In Old Testament records, we find the word Nazarite used several times in such Scriptures as this: "For, lo, thou shalt conceive and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." (Judges 13:5) This child was, of course, Samson. This class is also mentioned in the Book of Numbers which was written by Moses before the Israelites entered Palestine, so it is evident that the Nazarites originated in Egypt. There were quite a number of these Nazarites or "children of light" among the Jews who settled in Galilee, and it was from this settlement of Nazarites that the town of Nazareth received its name. By the time of Jesus, the Nazarites had become known as Essenes. The Pharisees did not think much of the Galileans, and plainly stated that they did not expect any good to ever come out of Nazareth. Conversely, we do not have to read very far in the New Testament to learn that Jesus did not think very much of the Pharisees and their 'holier than thou' type of religion.

The Secrets of the Kingdom

In a study of this nature, one of the first things that attracts one's attention is the reluctance of both Jesus and the Apostles to disclose any of the real teachings of "the Path" to the masses. They

gave the people as much as they felt they could assimilate; and this was not very much. Saint Paul complained several times that all He could give most of the members of the early church was the "milk of the Word" because the "strong meat" was beyond their digestive ability.

In this regard, we find Jesus making the following statements:

"Because it is given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." (Matt. 13:11)
"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs; neither cast ye your pearls before swine lest they trample them under their feet and turn again and rend you." (Matt. 7:6)

The word "mystery" means secret, and is so translated in the Diaglott which is a word for word translation of the original. Since this word and the importance of its meaning *must* be understood before we can fully understand any part of the spiritual path, we shall cite a few of the Scriptures in which it is used—giving the Diaglott wording.

"To you it is given to know the *secrets* of the kingdom of God; but to others in parables; that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand." (Luke 8:10)
"Having made known to us the *secret* of His will, according to His own benevolent design, which He previously purposed in Himself, in regard to an administration of the fullness of the appointed times, to re-unite all things under one head, even under the Anointed One." (Eph. 1:9-10)
"That by Revelation He made known to me the secret—as I wrote briefly before, by reading which, you can perceive my intelligence in the *secret* of the Anointed One—which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His Holy Apostles and Prophets by the Spirit." (Eph. 3:3-5)
"Even to enlighten all as to what is the administration of that *secret,* which has been *concealed* from the ages by that God who created all things." (Eph. 3:9)
"This is a great *secret;* but I am speaking concerning Christ and the congregation." (Eph. 5:32)
"Praying on my behalf that eloquence may be given to me, in opening my mouth with boldness, to make known the *secret* of the glad tidings." (Eph. 6:19)
"The *Secret* which was concealed from ages and generations, but now is manifested to His *Saints;* to whom God wished to make known, what is the glorious wealth of this *secret* among the nations, which is Christ in *you* the hope of glory." (Col. 1:26-27)
"Praying also at the same time for us, that God may open to us a door for the Word, to speak the *Secret* of the Anointed One, on account of whom I have been bound." (Col. 4:3)
"So that their hearts may be comforted, being closely united in love, and in all the wealth of the full assurance of the understanding, in order to an exact knowledge of the *Secret* of God." (Col. 2:2)
"The *Secret* of lawlessness is already working." (II Thes. 2:7)
"Holding the *secret* of faith with a pure conscience." (I Tim. 3:9)

From the Scriptures quoted, it can readily be seen that the early

Christian religion was very much a matter of secrets. Jesus flatly refused to divulge these inner teachings to the masses, and Saint Paul says that they are for the *saints* only. Saints are rather scarce. Now do you see why it is so difficult to understand the Bible? There is no place in the Bible where any of these secrets are clearly explained; and the writers did not intend that they should be. The day of salvation for the masses has not yet fully arrived, but is at hand —in fact it has already begun in a small way.

Glad tidings of great joy

Let us again quote from Matthew 7:21-23. These are the words of Jesus:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the Will of My Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

There has been a great deal of preaching, teaching, prophesying, casting out of the devil, missionary work, and other mighty and wonderful works having the name "Christian" attached, that the world would have been far better off without. The preview of the Christian Gospel as given by the Angel was clear and definite, and to the point: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you *good tidings* of *great joy* which *shall be* to *all people.*" Fear of any kind has no connection whatsoever with the Christian religion. Where it has been faithfully preached, it has always been "good tidings of great joy." It has never caused a mother to weep tears of anguish because she was afraid that a wayward son was 'eternally lost.' It has never caused anyone to fear so-called death. No Christian has ever doubted for a moment that God's promise to Abraham: "And in thy seed shall *all* the nations of the Earth be blessed: because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen. 22:18) would be fulfilled in due time. Nor has he ever thought for a moment that sending most of the human race to some place of eternal damnation, separation from God, or whatever other forms of eternal punishment might be concocted by the faithless leaders of the flock, would be a blessing to either them or their loved ones. The true Christian believes that "all the nations of the Earth" means just that, and that it included, not only those living at the time of Abraham, but those who had lived prior to him and all who have come here since that time. Yes, the Christian Gospel is truly a message of "good tidings of great joy," and is taught in the Bible. We propose to show you where you may find it for yourself. Someday you might even hear a sermon preached on this very subject.

The Three Baptisms

As one of the first steps on the spiritual path, it might be as well, perhaps, to study the three stages of Christian development, as this will give each one a rule by which he may measure his own development and then see what his next step should be. These three stages are distinctly marked, and each is begun by a different form of baptism.

The first form of baptism mentioned in the New Testament is that of John the Baptist. It is recorded that "John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins." (Matt. 3:4) To those versed in Essene history, this is another way of saying that John was an Essene priest or, as they were called at that time, a Nazarite priest. This baptism was a semi-public initiation into the first stage of spiritual development as known and taught by the Nazarites, and the form of baptism used was the same as the Brotherhood had used in Egypt long before Moses. It had been used at Lake Morias in the reign of Thutmose III who was the monarch that took the Ancient Wisdom that had been kept very secret "for ages and generations" and formed a Brotherhood to study, preserve, and *keep* secret these eternal truths because the masses were not yet ready for them. When Jesus said to "give not that which is holy unto the dogs; neither cast ye your pearls before swine." (Matt. 7:6) and "because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." (Matt. 13:11) it shows that He was well versed in the Ancient Wisdom.

We have stated that visitors could attend this baptism, but let us quote the words of John to some of these visitors who did come. "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" We may assume from this remark that they were not entirely welcome.

As we have mentioned, John's form of baptism was the same as that used by the Brotherhood in Egypt centuries before. The one being baptized waded out into the water with the baptizer until they were waist deep. Then the baptizer took a gourd dipper and poured water onto the head of the one being baptized as appropriate words were said. The immersion of the lower part of the body in water represented the cleansing of the lower nature by the action of God's Love; and the water poured on the head represented the descent of the Holy Spirit through the intellect. "Ye shall know the truth." (John 8:32) Beliefs will not do. There is no substitute for knowledge, and we cannot *know* a thing until we *understand* it.

There were other requirements for this initiation besides just a desire for repentance. As any member of the Essene group at the present time knows, the candidate must be of "lawful age." That is, he must have reached the age of maturity and be capable of making his own decisions. He must come of "his own free will and choice." Threats, intimidation, fear, promises, or any attempt of any kind to influence the decision of the neophyte is never permitted; and he must come seeking "Light." If all these requirements are not met, there will be no activity or co-operation of the Holy Spirit. Baptism under any other conditions is useless.

Baptism is a form of initiation; and an initiation is a sort of preview of coming events. It is an outpicturing of events taking place in the inner realms. Other forms may be used to outpicture the event, but since the activity is always completed on the inner, no outward symbol is absolutely necessary. No one has even been "lost" due to not being baptized with water.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6) Notice that in this Scripture all the things mentioned above are implied. The expression "diligently seek" carries with it the thought of maturity—a freely made decision and a determined quest for something higher.

In the search for God, all these conditions *must* be met. The form of initiation, if any, is of no importance, but to most people some form of ritual does help, and many of these forms are impressive.

> "And it came to pass that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts, came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism."
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> "Then, said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on Him which should come after, that is, on Jesus Christ. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus: and when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them: and they spake with tongues and prophesied." (Acts 19:1-6)

Now let us review what we have read. It is very evident that two different baptisms are indicated; and also that they were for two entirely different purposes—one not serving the purpose of the other. All available records indicate that an identical form of baptism was used by John and the Apostles, but in John's baptism, the purifying of the lower nature, symbolized by the immersion of the lower part of the body in the water, was emphasized; while the

pouring on of the water was stressed in the baptism by the Apostles. In the case of the baptism of Jesus, there was an actual visible descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a Dove.

The actions outlined here are the first steps on the spiritual path, and it is very important that we realize their full meaning. It naturally follows that there can never be a second step until the first has been successfully completed. Therefore, in the first step, there must be a genuine desire for the forgiveness of all mistakes, and that a sincere effort be made to rectify all wrongs that may have been committed against life at any time. This *must* be done of one's *own free will* after mature and deliberate thought; and it must be motivated by one reason only—that "right is right." Any hope of reward or fear of punishment will completely nullify the step that has been taken.

Very often people take such a step at the urging of friends or relatives, and often under the influence of emotional religion. In these cases, there is a lack of that maturity of thought and independent action which is absolutely necessary to successfully take this first step alone. At this stage of development, a person is like a little child just learning to walk, and the time must come when the first step must be taken without depending upon the support of another. If this is not done, it is certain that the second step will never be taken. One whose path is marked out by others becomes a follower, and usually will remain as such.

Are ye yet carnal?

Saint Paul had a very clear understanding of these steps, and in his out-spoken way, he describes this particular condition.

> "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal (materialistic), even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it; neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? (I Cor. 3:1-4)

Let us be sure that we understand the meaning of this Scripture. Here was a church that had not been able to take that first step alone. They were lacking in maturity. They had been led or urged to take the step that they had taken, and therefore they were *followers* —and had remained followers. Some had become followers of Paul, and others of Apollos. Certainly these were two very fine teachers, in some ways much superior to many who have obtained a following since that time, but according to Paul, the great mistake that these "babes in Christ" had made was that they were just followers. The immaturity of these people is indicated by the strife and divisions that

Paul mentions. All divisions that have occurred in the Christian movement have been caused by this type of people. The person that is developed enough to pass the tests of the first baptism, is developed enough to make his own decisions and take the responsibility for his own mistakes, and also grant this same right to everyone else.

Here, then, is the measuring rod we promised for your own stages of spiritual progress. Are you through the *first* degree? Remember, there are two more; but they will not mean anything to you if you have not passed the first.

"Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms (note the plural), and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment." (Heb. 6:1-2) These are the foundation stones upon which the work of the second degree or second baptism is based, so we will take Paul's advice and go on to a study of the next baptism.

Next issue: The second and third baptisms; Times and seasons; the Gospel Age.

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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR A DISCIPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Be conscious ever that thou aspirest to the fullest expression of God, and devote all thy being and thy service to that end, as expressed so ably in the first commandment.
2. Learn the lesson of harmlessness; neither by word nor thought nor feeling inflict evil upon any part of life. Know that action and physical violence are but the lesser part of the sin of harmful expression.
3. Stir not a brother's sea of emotion, thoughtlessly or deliberately. Know that the storm in which thou placest his spirit will sooner or later flow upon the banks of thine own lifestream; rather bring tranquility to life, and be as the Psalmist so ably puts it: "oil on the troubled waters."
4. Dissociate thyself from personal delusion. Never let self-justification reveal that thou dost love the self more than the harmony of the Universe. If thou art right, there is no need to acclaim it; if thou art wrong, pray for forgiveness. Watching the self, thou wilt find the rising tides of indignation among the more subtle shadows on the path of Right, called "self-righteousness."

5. Walk gently through the Universe, knowing that the body is a Temple in which dwelleth the Holy Spirit that bringeth Peace and Illumination to life everywhere. Keep thy Temple always in a respectful and cleanly manner as befitting the habitation of the Spirit of Truth. Respect and honor, in gentle dignity, all other Temples, knowing that oft-times within a crude exterior burns a greater Light.
6. In the presence of Nature, absorb the beauties and gifts of Her Kingdom in gentle gratitude. Do not desecrate Her by vile thoughts or emotions, or by physical acts that despoil Her virgin beauty.
7. Do not form or offer opinions unless invited to do so, and then only after prayer and silent invocation for guidance.
8. Speak when God chooseth to say something through thee. At other times remain peacefully silent.
9. Make the ritual of thy living the observance of God's rules—so unobtrusive that no man shall know that thou aspirest to Godliness, lest the force of his outer will be pitted against thee, or lest thy service become impinged with pride.
10. Let thy heart be a song of gratitude that the Most High has given unto thy keeping the Spirit of Life which, through thee, chooses to widen the borders of His Kingdom.
11. Be alert always to use thy faculties and the gifts loaned unto thee
12. Claim nohing for thyself, neither powers nor principalities, any by the Father of all Life, in a manner to extend His Kingdom. more than thou claimest the air thou breathest, or the Sun; using them freely, but knowing the God-ownership of all.
13. In speech and action be gentle, but with the dignity that always accompanies the Presence of the Living God that is within the Temple.
14. Constantly place all the faculties of thy being, and all the inner unfoldment of thy nature, at the feet of the God-Power, especially when endeavoring to manifest perfection through one in distress.
15. Let thy watchwords be gentleness, humility, and loving service, but do not allow the impression of humility to be mistaken for lethargy. The servant of the Lord, like the Sun in the Heavens, is eternally vigilant and constantly outpouring the gifts which are in his particular keeping.

To our readers:

This Code of Conduct is available beautifully printed suitable for framing, for the nominal price of $1.00. Order from HOPE, P.O. Box 5, Flourtown, Penna.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

"O mankind, who seeks knowledge whereby to attain happiness, know that your lesson lies within the contemplation of Love. Let Me point you to the Love within the Kingdom of Nature which, on the evolutionary scale, lies far below the potential power of man—Nature —which mirrors so much more of God Love than you who are prechosen to be the Lords of Creation.

"Through the Body of Nature comes all the substance to sustain the physical bodies of all life expressions. Without the gifts of Nature, her food and clothing, no physical bodies could endure for a period of more than a few short hours.

"All this with the patience that is not of a century, but of so many countless aeons of time that it would stagger the human mind to even contemplate it.

"Can you say as much for yourselves? Are you willing to absorb the evils of each other and actively replace them with the substance of Happiness and Good?

"The rhythm of Nature is a constant refinement of the human race or a natural purification by the chemical action of self-conscious beings, coupled with the actual throwing off, by the same chemical means, of the worn-out particles of the human body and then the renewal of the body and brain substance of the race, which is *also* a conscious and positive action of Love.

"I speak of Nature today, not only to make man aware of the Love Principle that is within it, but in gratitude to countless millions of intelligences engaged in the Service of Mercy, and to point out to the souls of men the Activity *which must replace* the present consciousness that refuses to lift the load or share the burden of these beings, because, until this consciousness *is* replaced, *man cannot come under the beneficent protection that the Natural Kingdom will afford in the cataclysmic changes.*

"If Nature serveth you by taking the excrement of your body, the carbon dioxide of your lungs, and the decadent flesh of your garment, and with loving, gentle hands, gives you in their place the leafy green, the fragrant blossom and the soft warm wool or gracious silk, and you cannot take the conscious or unconscious discord of your fellow-man, consciously consume it and, more than that, give back a gift of tolerant, forgiving and raising Love, *you have not earned the right to live above Nature's Kingdom, or even parallel with it.*

"I speak because the hour comes when *we must have in incarnation* those who are, at least, *equal* to the Nature Kingdom. *We do not ask that they be superior to it!*"

MOTHER NATURE AND HER ASSISTANTS

When the God-Parents of our System of worlds directed the preparation of a habitable abode to be the cradle for the evolution of certain self-conscious intelligences, one of the first of Their spiritual services was to invite, from the Higher Octaves of expression, a Representative expressing the full nature of the Godhead Who would be a Comforting Presence to the life about to embark upon their journey to spiritual maturity.

Thus, at the same Cosmic Moment that the God-Parents within the Sun gave the Elohim directions to create a habitable globe for a future humanity, the Holy Spirit was charged with the responsibility of doing everything within His power and capacity to make the advent and sustenance of self-conscious life upon it a happy and harmonious one.

Accordingly, it was the Holy Spirit Who invoked the Beings of the Air to form a localized atmosphere to soften the radiation of the Sun so that it might not be too powerful for men's vehicles. It was the Holy Spirit Who invoked the Beings of the Water element to cleanse, purify, and energize the qualities ofwater in which the Earth might float, thus preventing the jarring action of a solid mass. It was the Holy Spirit Who drew forth the Beings of the Earth and the Builders of Form to create a platform and provide food and clothing for the bodies of evolving mankind.

Mankind, generally, have never given too much serious thought or consideration to the possibility of a conscious kingdom of elemental substance; yet the members of this kingdom are *very* real, and do have conscious being. They work unceasingly in the service of mankind to keep the pollution of man's own effluvia from smothering him even to the point where the breath could not be drawn into the nostrils or sustained within the human form. Most of the activities of this kingdom are localized. Those Beings who choose to create rivers, valleys, hills, and other glories that are Nature, spend practically their entire evolution within the results of their efforts. Many of the small and dainty ones never pass outside the sphere of a few small yards—living their lives developing the grasses and the flowers in someone's lovely garden. The larger elementals perhaps live *their* lives within a mountain or a lake, but they are all localized, and do not travel.

Those people who are wise, will endeavor to develop a friendship for this unseen kingdom—if only from the selfish standpoint of self-preservation. Developing a love for the Nature Kingdom, regardless of the form in which it manifests, can become of great assistance to an individual should planetary changes occur. There are

no heights that cannot be reached in invoking the assistance of the Elemental Kingdom in balancing the extremes of weather conditions manifesting at the present time on this planet.

Prior to man's advent upon the Earth, the Elemental Kingdom was instrumental in preparing the planet for occupation by the human race. This, of course, took many centuries of time. Elemental beings create by example. At the time of the Creation, these beings had full access to the Cosmic Pattern for the Earth held within the Heart of God. By nature, they mirror what they see. At inner levels of consciousness, there are Nature Temples provided for the training of these beings, and many of the Teachers in these Temples are the God-free Beings and Masters with whom we have become acquainted through the various channels of religious study.

One of the stories in connection with these Temples concerns Beloved Mary, the Mother of Jesus. As one of the Teachers in the Nature Temples, it was Her service to train some of these little elemental beings in the art of holding the concept of some particular facet of nature in order that they might bring it to the Earth for man's benefit. She found that, instead of mirroring that which She desired for them, they mirrored Her instead. It was then that She conceived the idea of creating for them something which was an integral part of Her energy and Love, and yet which would not duplicate Her form. Thus, what we know today as the "maiden-hair" fern came into being, and each elemental desiring to outpicture this gift from the lovely Mary then carried this form into the substance of the Earth.

During the first creation and the period which we have known as "the Garden of Eden," the Elemental Kingdom and the Human Kingdom worked together in an harmonious association. After the "fall of man," a considerable antagonism developed on the part of the elemental because of the fact that it was forced to work with more and more impure substance as man withdrew from God. In the ensuing ages of time since, the knowledge of these beings has been all but obliterated and has been generally relegated to the realm of myth and legend.

As man again endeavors to seek out Truth, this knowledge will return and be reinstated as a part of our daily activities. We should ever be alert to the fact that all we are and have in our material world is due to the love and sacrifice of these elemental beings. We should never let a day pass without calling forth all the blessings of the Godhead upon all the beings of the elements and also upon the greater Beings who direct their activities. Many of these Beings have been

mentioned in previous issues of this magazine, but we shall refer to them again for the enlightenment of new readers.

The Great Being of the Earth Element, Whom we usually refer to as Mother Nature, is the Goddess Virgo whose identity has been preserved through the medium of astrology to those interested in that particular line of thought. Each of these Beings has what is referred to as a Cosmic or Divine Complement. In other words, all creation and all life is represented by a manifestation of the masculine and feminine aspect of Divinity. Thus it is, that we introduce to our readers the God Pelleur who is the masculine counterpart of the Beloved Virgo. Through Their bodies has passed all the substance of the earth element used to create and sustain this planet. The elemental beings under Their direction have always been known to us through the media of fairy tale and legend. These are the fairies, the gnomes, the elves, and the nature spirits with whom most of us had quite close association in our childhood days. Yet today, they are still very real. The grotesque forms and mischievous characters which they are said to manifest are the results of man's impurity in which they have been forced, through obedience, to live for many years. Many have been forced into various animal forms, and it is due to their great love for humanity that there is sometimes such a great affinity between a human being and an animal. As man again returns to a love for the four-footed kingdom, this life will gradually be raised and returned to its original pure state of elemental consciousness. Many will argue that God created the animals just as He created man. This is quite true, but the animals, like man, have fallen far short of the perfection of the original creation. God did create the animals, that is true, but if you will remember *"He saw that it was GOOD!"* There is evolution in all forms of life, and each kingdom must assist the other toward perfection. All is God Life regardless of its form. The human form is considered the highest form of evolution on the Earth, but is it? Until we have learned to see the Spirit of the One in *all* life, animate or inanimate, we should not consider ourselves too far removed from the lower types upon the evolutionary scale.

In short, we must learn to love ALL life impersonally thereby emulating the Heavenly Father of us all whose substance comprises even the ground upon which we walk, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the bodies of those beings who have sustained this planet for our benefit for countless aeons of time.

Subsequent issues will cover the Air Element; the Water Element; the Fire Element; the Elemental of the Body.

SELF REALIZATION

The *requirement* of the present day and hour in the evolution of the planet Earth and its mankind is for the presence and subsequent co-operation of lifestreams who have the capacity to identify themselves with the God Presence as an individual, potent, and powerful force active and alive in every facet and expression of the individual.

There are two groups of spiritual *seekers*—those who enjoy the *contemplation* of the perfection of the Higher Spheres abstractly; and the *builders* who are willing to *make real* the *ideations* of the Higher Spheres.

To realize a need or a requirement is, in itself, a gift, as well as an instruction from the Cosmic Christ Intelligence, for among a cross-section of human beings, you will find one in a hundred who can realize, even mentally, the need for assistance—whether it be spiritual, material, emotional or mental. The capacity to realize that requirement sets those lifestreams apart from the indifferent and the unheeding, but then again we have a diminishing number of souls who, having the capacity to *feel the realization* of the specific need, are willing to set into motion the forces, gifts, capacities and powers of their own nature to *bring into manifestation* that which the Divine Omnipresence has revealed to them as the *requirement of the moment.*

There are men and women of tremendous mental energies who, looking abstractly upon organizations and movements, find themselves closely attuned to the Universal Cosmic Mind in sensing ways and means by which improvement may occur, but among them we find few *who will choose to couple the energies* of their own nature to the *making manifest such requirements.*

As children of the One God, we should begin to practice, without delay, the *Omnipresence of God.* Upon entering this exercise, the mind and feelings will be opened to the entrance of many beautiful and perfect ways and means of increasing the efficiency and perfection of the manifestation of Good, not only in personal experience, but nationally, and even universally. Then, from the strength of the God-Source and the collective powers of the Universal Cosmic Christ, the individual realization may be coupled *with the pressure and power of Their Light* in order to bring concrete manifestations into being which are the fulfillment of God's Divine Plan for the planet. This is the *requirement* for which the Heart of Heaven is striving, and this is our opportunity to *make real our Faith* and become instruments of the Most High in this world of form.

So then let us make the basis of our studies the *contemplation* and *realization* of the Presence of God as related to the individual through the instrument of the *outer self.*